

HISTORIC STUDY OF LIBERTY HILL, MCCORMICK COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 471

HISTORIC STUDY OF LIBERTY HILL, MCCORMICK COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Prepared By:
Michael Trinkley, Ph.D., RPA
And
Nicole Southerland

Prepared For:
Mr. Tommy L. Jackson
Central Electric Power Cooperative
121 Greystone Boulevard
Columbia, SC 29202

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Chicora Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 8664
Columbia, SC 29202-8664
803/787-6910
www.chicora.org

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ABSTRACT

This study reports on a brief historic study of the Liberty Hill area located in McCormick County, South Carolina, east of the town of McCormick. The work was conducted to assist Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative in determining a possible transmission route through the area.

Two of the proposed transmission routes would cross through the Liberty Hill area. A letter dated March 30, 2007 from Mr. B.F. Edmonds (a local historian) to Pat and Anne Ray (who live in Liberty Hill) discusses the concern of the Rays about the transmission line's possible affect on historic resources of the area. This research was performed in an attempt to locate historic standing structures or potentially eligible sites that may be adversely affected by the transmission line corridors.

A transmission route will require the clearing of the corridor, followed by construction of the proposed transmission line. These activities have the potential to affect archaeological and historical sites that may be in the project corridor. In addition, nearby historic structures within sight of the transmission line may be affected through what some consider to be a discordant surrounding.

An investigation of the archaeological site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology was performed to determine if any potentially eligible or eligible sites had already been located in the Liberty Hill area. One site, 38MC44, was recorded that partially crosses one of the proposed transmission routes. This site, described as a dense Early Archaic to Woodland village, was recorded in 1980, but no formal work has been performed at the site. At least two other previously recorded sites, 38MC534 and 38MC536, were found to be located on the proposed

transmission routes. Site 38MC534 is a historic house site while 38MC536 is a prehistoric lithic and ceramic scatter. Both sites were recommended not eligible for the National Register.

Just south of Liberty Hill, a significant amount of work has been performed for the Sumter National Forest. Hundreds of sites, including prehistoric and historic, have been recorded. This shows the potential for sites along the proposed transmission routes where distinct ridge tops, ridge toes, and easy access to a permanent water source (all typical locations for sites) are found.

The maps at the S.C. Department of Archives and History were also consulted to see if any National Register of Historic Places sites were in the vicinity of the project area. No comprehensive architectural survey has been performed for McCormick County, however, a 1972 survey was completed through the Upper Savannah Historical Program that identified several areas of importance to Liberty Hill. Eight sites (62-66, 68, 75, and 78) were briefly described in the publication. Number 62 is Scott's Ferry Road, which was the main route from eastern McCormick County to Augusta, Georgia; 63, the Liberty Hill Masonic Lodge/Longmire's Post Office, which is no longer standing; 64, Bethany Baptist Church, which was instituted in 1808, but the original building is no longer standing; 65, Shinburg Mill, which was originally built in 1790, updated in 1860, and was owned by W.B. Dorn (the remains are still visible along Cuffytown Creek); 66, the home of Governor J.C. Sheppard, which has been destroyed; 68, the Hollingsworth House, which was reported to have been built before 1800 and is still standing; 75 is the Liberty Hill Female Academy, which was built in 1860, but burned down; and 78, which was the Liberty

Hill Academy for boys that was destroyed before 1900.

Maps at the Caroliniana Library on the University of South Carolina campus were also consulted to see if any structures or sites were shown.

An examination of standing structures over 50 years was performed on April 19, 2007. As a result, four structures (0021-0024) were recorded in the Liberty Hill area. Site 0021 is the reportedly eighteenth century Hollingsworth House; 0022 is a c. 1920 structure associated with Bethany Baptist Church; 0023 is a c. 1850 house; and 0024 is a c. 1920 house.

This report will provide a brief account of potentially eligible resources on or near the proposed transmission route. No archaeological studies are included in this review.

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INTRODUCTION

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative. We were requested to perform this work on April 13, 2007. The study was conducted to provide a brief overview of historic resources that may be on or near several proposed transmission routes.

The project is in the Liberty Hill area of McCormick County (Figure 1). Research was requested for Liberty Hill to determine if any historic resources would be adversely affected by a transmission line that is proposed to be constructed in the area.

Construction and maintenance of transmission lines may have an impact on historic resources. A completed facility may detract from the visual integrity of historic properties, creating what many consider discordant surroundings. As a result, a field examination of standing historic structures was undertaken in addition to research to provide information on potentially affected resources.

Initial background investigations incorporated a review of the site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. One site, 38MC44, was recorded that partially crosses one of the proposed transmission routes. This site, described as a dense Early Archaic to Woodland village, was recorded in 1980, but no formal work has been performed at the site. At least two other previously recorded sites, 38MC534 and 38MC536, were found to be located on the proposed transmission routes. Site 38MC534 is a historic house site while 38MC536 is a prehistoric lithic and ceramic scatter. Both sites were recommended not eligible for the National Register.

Just south of Liberty Hill, a significant amount of work has been performed for the Sumter National Forest. Hundreds of sites, including prehistoric and historic, have been recorded. This shows the potential for sites along the proposed transmission routes where distinct ridge tops, ridge toes, and easy access to a permanent water source (all typical locations for sites) are found.

The maps at the S.C. Department of Archives and History were also consulted to see if any National Register of Historic Places sites were in the vicinity of the project area. No comprehensive architectural survey has been performed for McCormick County; however, a 1972 survey was completed through the Upper Savannah Historical Program that identified several areas of importance to Liberty Hill. Eight sites (62-66, 68, 75, and 78) were briefly described in the publication. Number 62 is Scott's Ferry Road, which was the main route from eastern McCormick County to Augusta, Georgia; 63, the Liberty Hill Masonic Lodge/Longmire's Post Office, which is no longer standing; 64, Bethany Baptist Church, which was instituted in 1808, but the original building is no longer standing; 65, Shinburg Mill, which was originally built in 1790, updated in 1860, and was owned by W.B. Dorn (the remains are still visible along Cuffytown Creek); 66, which was the home of Governor J.C. Sheppard, but has been destroyed; 68, the Hollingsworth House, which was reported to have been built before 1800 and is still standing; 75 is the Liberty Hill Female Academy, which was built in 1860, but burned down; and 78, which was the Liberty Hill Academy for boys that was destroyed before 1900.

Maps at the Caroliniana Library on the University of South Carolina campus were also

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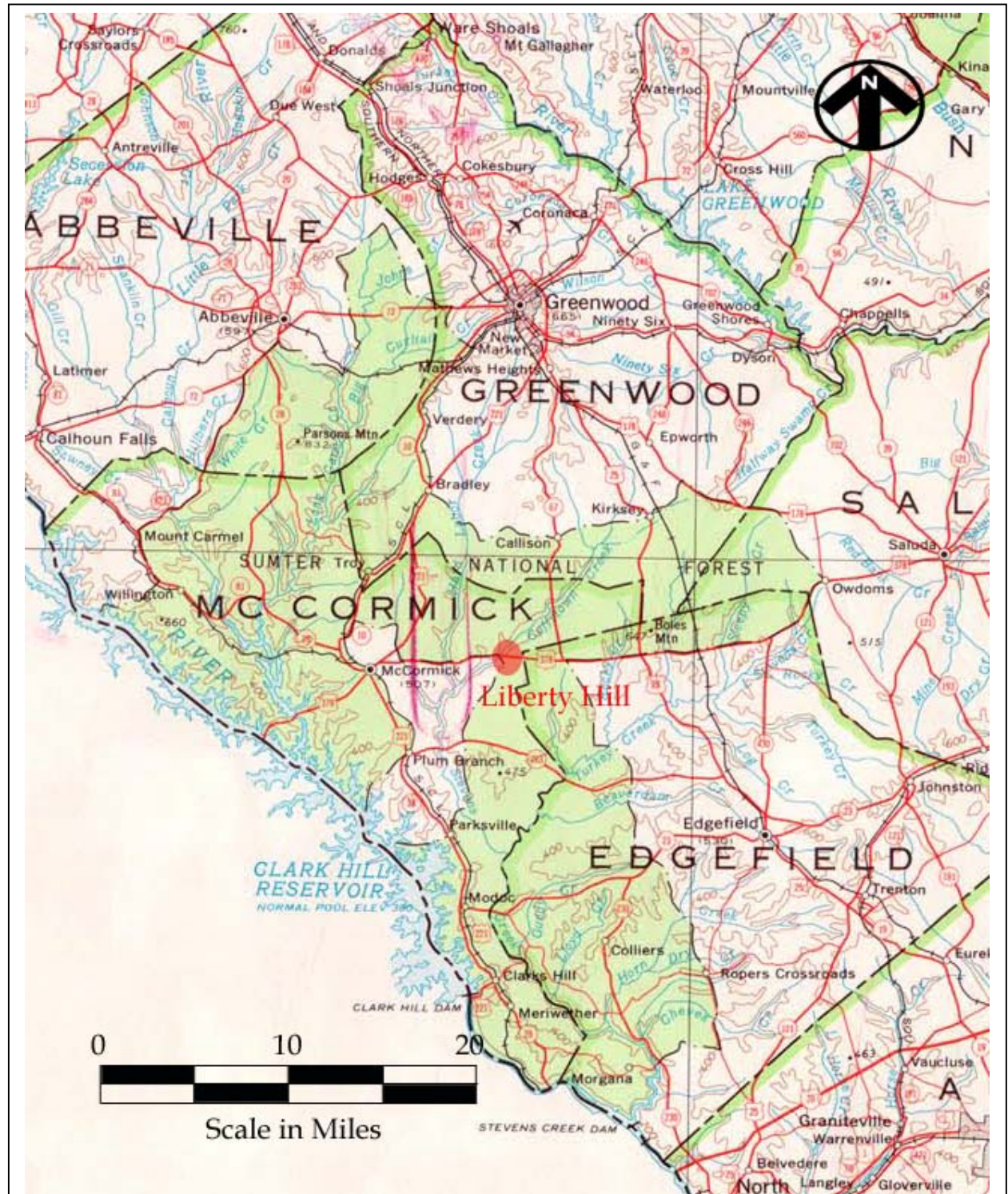


Figure 1. Location of Liberty Hill in McCormick County (basemap is USGS South Carolina 1:500,000).

consulted to see if any structures or sites were shown. While no McCormick County maps were found (McCormick County was not formed until 1916), several Edgefield County maps were examined that showed the Liberty Hill area. A review of secondary sources were also examined in the Chicora Foundation files.

The architectural survey was conducted on April 19, 2007 by Ms. Nicole Southerland and Ms. Julie Poppell under the direction of Dr. Michael Trinkley. Four resources (0021-0024) were recorded during this examination. Site 0021 is the reportedly eighteenth century Hollingsworth House; 0022 is a c. 1920 structure associated with Bethany Baptist Church; 0023 is a c. 1850 house; and 0024 is a c. 1920 house. Only 0022 is recommended eligible for the National Register, however, this structure is not visible from any of the proposed transmission corridors. Resources 0023 and 0024 may possibly be seen from the southern corridor, however, these resources are recommended not eligible for the National Register.

This report details the investigation of the project area undertaken by Chicora Foundation and the results of that investigation.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Physiographic Province

McCormick County is situated in the piedmont of South Carolina, bounded to the north by Abbeville County, to the east by Greenwood County, to the southeast by Edgefield County, and to the west by the Savannah River. About 48,000 acres of the Sumter National Forest are located in McCormick County (Camp and Herren 1980).

Physiographically, the area is a thoroughly dissected plain. The relief ranges from nearly level to steep, but it is dominantly gently sloping to moderately steep (Herren 1979:1). Although throughout the piedmont area the elevations range from 450 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) to 1,014 feet AMSL, the elevations in the Liberty Hill range from about 350 to 470 feet. In general, these elevations slope downward toward the several creeks in the area including Cuffytown and Hard Labor creeks. These creeks flow southward into the Savannah River.

Geology and Soils

Most of the rocks of the Piedmont are gneiss and schist, with some marble and quartzite (Hasselton 1974). Some less intensively metamorphosed rocks, such as slate, occur along the eastern part of the province from southern Virginia into Georgia. This area, called the Slate Belt, is characterized by slightly lower ground with wider river valleys. Consequently, the Slate Belt has been favored for reservoir sites (Johnson

1970), as well as prehistoric occupation (see Coe 1964). The project area is just above the Slate Belt, in an area characterized by highly metamorphosed gneisses, schists, and amphibolites (Murphy 1995:47). The bulk of the soils are formed in materials weathered from the underlying bedrock of granite, schist, or gneiss.

At least seven soil series are found in the Liberty Hill area with six of those soils being well drained. These soils include Almance silt loam, Davidson sandy clay loam, Georgeville silt loam, Goldston slaty clay loam, Herndon silt loam, and Mecklenburg sandy loam. The one soil series that is not well drained is the Cartecay and Toccoa series, which can be moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained. These soils, however, tend to have a high water table during the rainy season.

The 1934 South Carolina Erosion Survey by M.W. Lowry found that this portion of the



Figure 3. View of Cuffeytown Creek in the Liberty Hill area.

Piedmont 25-75% of the surface eroded and occasional gullies. This portion of the state has lost up to 1.1 foot of soil through erosion in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Trimble 1974:3). It is part of the area classified by Trimble as having high antebellum erosion land use with postbellum continuation and belonging to his Region III — the Cotton Plantation Area (Trimble 1974:15).

Within recent times, at least some portions of the Liberty Hill area have been logged, likely increasing soil loss originating during earlier agricultural activities. The United States Forest Service has determined that logging accounts for upwards of 0.36 tons of soil erosion per acre per year in this region, while areas of skid trails have erosion rates of about 9.91 tons per acre per year (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1980:25). This is clearly evidenced by the shovel tests conducted in the project area.

Climate

Elevation, latitude, and distance from the coast work together to affect the climate of South Carolina, including the Piedmont. In addition, the more westerly mountains block or moderate many of the cold air masses that flow across the state from west to east. Even the very cold air masses which cross the mountains are warmed somewhat by compression before they descend on the Piedmont.

Consequently, the climate in this area is temperate. The winters are relatively mild and the summers warm and humid. Rainfall in the amount of about 46 to 47.5 inches is adequate. In general, about 23 inches of rain occur during the growing season, with periods of drought not uncommon during the summer months. As Hilliard illustrates, these droughts tended to be localized and tended to occur several years in a row, increasing the hardship on those attempting to recover from the previous year's crop failure (Hilliard 1984:16). Perhaps the best wide-scale example of this was the drought of 1845, which

caused a series of very serious grain and food shortages throughout the state.

The average growing season is about 217 days, although early freezes in the fall and late frosts in the spring can reduce this period by as much as 10 or more days (Camp and Herren 1980: Table 11). Consequently, most cotton planting, for example, did not take place until middle May, avoiding the possibility that a late frost would damage the young seedlings.

Floristics

Piedmont forests generally belong to the Oak-Hickory Formation as established by Braun (1950). The potential natural vegetation of the area is the Oak-Hickory-Pine forest, composed of medium tall to tall forests of broadleaf deciduous and needleleaf evergreen trees (Küchler 1964). The major components of this ecosystem include hickory, shortleaf pine, loblolly pine, white oak, and post oak. In actuality, the Piedmont is composed of a patchwork of open fields, pine woodlots, hardwood stands, mixed stands, and second growth fields. Shelford (1963) includes the Carolina Piedmont in the Oak-Hickory zone of the Southern Temperate Deciduous Forest Biome.

PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC OVERVIEW

Previous Research

The Piedmont has been the focus of considerable archaeological research. Derting et al. (1991), for example, cite 118 studies specific to McCormick County. Virtually all of these are compliance related with the majority of the projects performed in the Sumter National Forest.

More recently the Sumter National Forest has produced an overview that also includes site modeling. Three zones have been identified; Zone 1 is identified as broad floodplains and larger drainage bottoms, Zone 2 is identified as upland areas of low topographic relief, and Zone 3 is classified as areas of high relief containing slopes greater than 10%. High probability for prehistoric sites has been identified for those Zone 1 areas that are elevated, such as old levees and ridges and for Zones 2 and 3 where there are ridge tops, noses, saddles, crests, and other well-defined low slope areas within 500 feet of water sources or Zone 1 areas. Moderate probability areas are defined as Zone 1 areas of broad floodplains or bottoms and Zone 2 and 3 areas of less than 10% slope, even if greater than 500 feet from water. Finally, low probability areas include Zone 1 floodplains that are active and Zones 2 and 3 where the slopes are greater than 10% and where there is loss of soil (Benson 2006:225-226).

Although these models sound complex, they are actually quite simple and follow what has been generally accepted among archaeologists for a number of years. Much of the Liberty Hill area would be considered as evidencing high to moderate archaeological potential with no further evaluation of soil loss and erosion. There are numerous ridge tops, noses, and saddles – all in close proximity to water sources. Steep soils are limited to areas parallel to creeks such as Cuffytown Creek and Doctors Branch.

The bulk of archaeological research in McCormick County consists of surveys in Sumter National Forest or S.C. Department of Highways and Public Transportation surveys (see Derting et al. 1991). A recent report for the Sumter National Forest summarizes many of the sites that have been explored (Wheaton et al. 2005). There have been about 50 sites recorded per square mile in the forest. It is likely that a similar density can be anticipated in the Liberty Hill area, although not all of these sites will be found to offer significant research potential.

Prehistoric Overview

In the Carolina Piedmont, lithic scatters are the most common type of prehistoric site encountered. Goodyear et al. (1979:131-145) found that lithic scatter sites located in the inter-riverine Piedmont were geographically extensive and exhibited little artifact diversity. These sites have been interpreted as:

limited or specialized activity sites which represent resource exploitation or other distinct functions. Nearly all investigators working in the Piedmont have related these sites to activities involving hunting, nut gathering, and procuring of lithic raw materials (Canouts and Goodyear n.d.:8).

Although the vast majority of these sites are located in eroded areas and exhibit little to no subsurface integrity, Canouts and Goodyear (1985) argue that they have analytical value. This value lies in their horizontal rather than vertical dimensions. They argue that:

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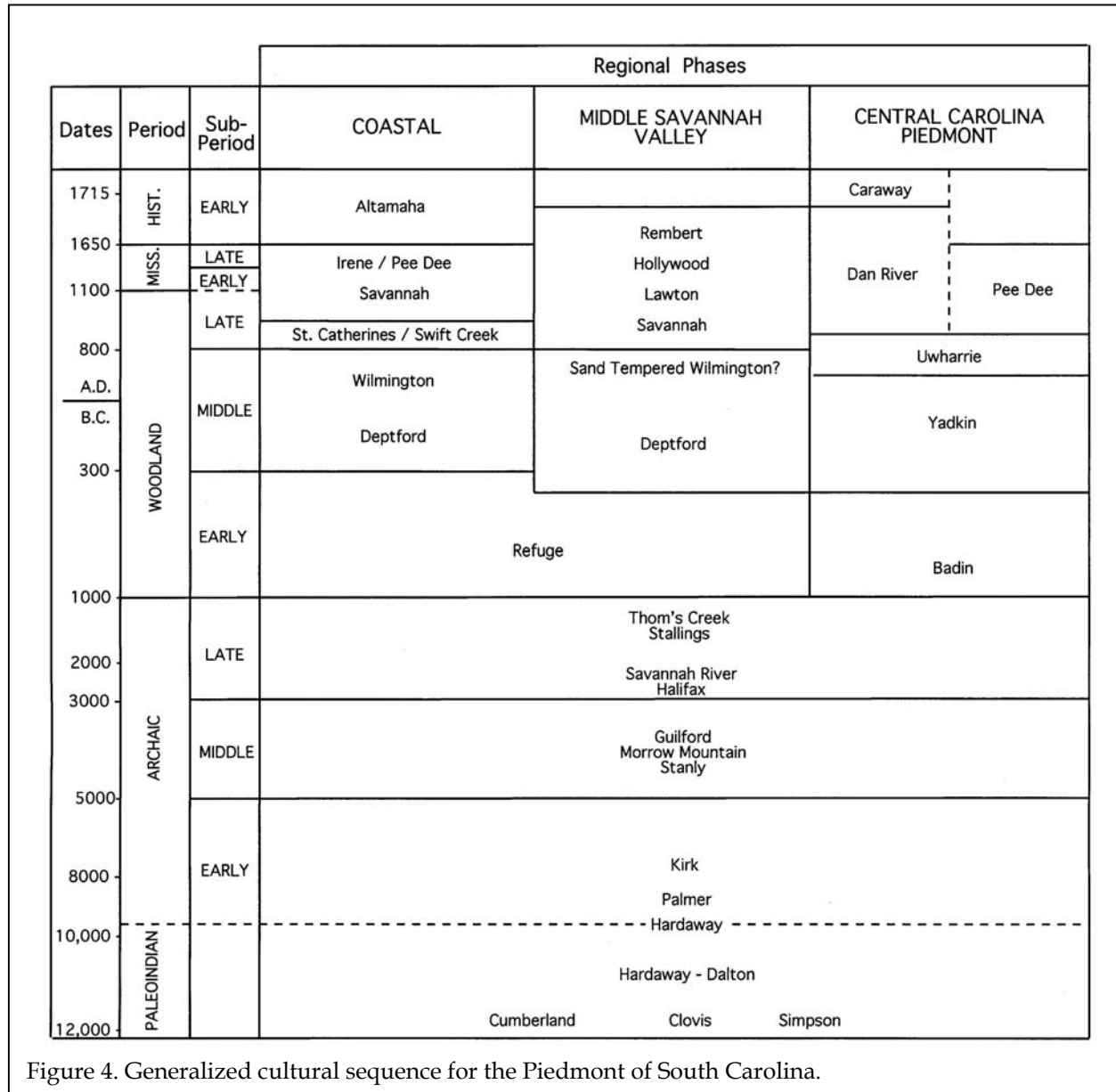


Figure 4. Generalized cultural sequence for the Piedmont of South Carolina.

[f]uture investigators of upland site must effect broad-scale spatial analyses comparable to the temporal analyses effected through excavation of deeply stratified sites. Both endeavors are necessary, and neither is sufficient for the total understanding of Piedmont prehistory" (Canouts and

Goodyear 1985: 193).

One observation that Canouts and Goodyear (1985) made is that lithic raw material ratios change through time. For instance, at the Gregg Shoals site in Elbert County, Georgia, the Early Archaic assemblage reflects greater use of non-local cryptocrystalline materials and the Late Archaic, greater use of non-quartz local material (see Tippitt and Marquardt 1981). Examination of

changing use of lithic resources will help archaeologists better understand issues such as the extent of seasonal rounds, trade networks, and social organization. Clearly, the discussions by Canouts and Goodyear (1985) argue strongly for a higher regard for the "lowly" lithic scatter – a very common occurrence in the Piedmont.

Figure 4 provides an overview of the cultural sequence commonly found in the Carolina Piedmont.

Paleoindian Period

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Points usually associated with this period include the Clovis and several variants, Suwannee, Simpson, and Dalton (Goodyear et al. 1989:36-38).

Unfortunately, little is known about Paleoindian subsistence strategies, settlement systems, or social organization. Generally, archaeologists agree that the Paleoindian groups were at a band level of society, were nomadic, and were both hunters and foragers. While population density, based on the isolated finds, is thought to have been low, Walthall suggests that toward the end of the period, "there was an increase in population density and in territoriality and that a number of new resource areas were beginning to be exploited" (Walthall 1980:30).

Very little work in the state has been able to focus on Paleoindian settlements because of the rarity of the site type. No evidence was found for Paleoindian occupation in the Laurens-Anderson inter-riverine area, which is not surprising since elsewhere in the state these sites are usually found clustered along major drainages and their tributaries which is interpreted by Michie (1977:124) to support the concept of an economy

"oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct mega-fauna."

One site identified in the Sumter National Forest (Price 1992), in neighboring Laurens County, is believed to have a possible Paleoindian component (38LU317). It is situated on a ridge saddle adjacent to a spring which feeds into the Enoree River, located only about 0.3 miles to the north. This fits well with previous arguments that Paleoindian sites will be located adjacent to major drainages.

Anderson (1992:32) suggests that the comparatively low density of Paleoindian diagnostics in South Carolina may be because the state could have been on the edge of the ranges of groups centered in other areas. He suggests that permanent settlements elsewhere probably occurred later in the Paleoindian period, only when population levels had grown appreciably in these centers. This would help to explain the overlap in stylistic traditions (such as the Clovis, Suwannee, Simpson, and Dalton) observed in South Carolina which perhaps resulted from populations expanding outward from these centers.

Archaic Period

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to as late as 500 B.C. in the Piedmont, does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched, side-notched, and broad stemmed projectile points, are common in the vicinity, although they rarely are found in good, well-preserved contexts (for a thorough discussion of the Early Archaic, see Anderson and Sassaman 1996, while Anderson and Joseph 1988 offer a review of prehistoric archaeology along the upper Savannah River).

Prehistoric sites in the Piedmont inter-riverine zones are for the most part characterized

as "upland lithic scatters" (House and Wogaman 1978:xii). These sites are shallow deposits without stratigraphic definition, contain a diversity of artifacts, and are commonly disturbed by plowing and/or erosion (Canouts and Goodyear 1985; Trinkley and Caballero 1983:27).

Early Archaic

During the Laurens-Anderson study (Goodyear et al. 1979), four sites with Early Archaic components were identified. Each of these sites contained a single example of Dalton¹ points or probable Dalton preforms made of indigenous Piedmont quartz. The following Palmer phase was found to be very common in the area and was represented by 28 sites. While most of the specimens were manufactured from the local quartz, some were manufactured from Coastal Plain chert from the Flint River formation located in the lower coastal plain of South Carolina and Georgia. There were also examples of metavolcanic rhyolite from the Carolina Slate Belt and what may be "Ridge and Valley chert" from eastern Tennessee.

At these sites a wide range of tool types were identified including a large number of unifacial and flake tools believed to be associated with the Early Archaic occupation. Goodyear et al. (1979:197) found that while Early Archaic sites with unifaces were found throughout the corridor, sites on ridgetops which were large watershed divides produced higher counts. They believe that the large number of sites producing Palmer points is related to environmental changes at that time. The large diversity in lithic raw material provided information regarding their "mobility patterns and regions of interactions" (Goodyear et al. 1979:198).

Anderson and Hanson's (1988) band/macrobanded model of Early Archaic settlement was formulated primarily to evaluate

data from the Savannah River basin. In the Savannah River Valley, settlement organization of the Early Archaic people was "characterized by the use of a logistically provisioned seasonal base camp or camps during the winter, and a series of short-term foraging camps throughout the remainder of the year" (Anderson 1992:36). During the early spring, the groups are believed to have moved toward the coast, then back into the upper coastal plain and piedmont during the later spring, summer, and early fall. During the winter they returned to their base camp incorporating some side trips to other drainages for aggregation events by groups from two or more different drainages. These aggregation sites are believed to have been located on Fall Line river terraces (Anderson 1989a:36). One example of a postulated base camp is the G.S. Lewis site at the Savannah River Site. This site is located on a ridge adjacent to the confluence of Upper Three Runs Creek and the Savannah River. Given this scenario for the Savannah River basin (which likely applies to other river basins), Early Archaic sites in the Piedmont were likely occupied from summer until fall and don't include aggregation sites. Anderson and Hanson (1988) place the Upper Piedmont in the Saluda/Broad macroband settlement system. At the band level, they proposed "co-residential population aggregates" consisting of 50 to 150 people which occupied and moved primarily within one drainage basin. They projected that individual macroband population was between 500 and 1500 people. They also formulated a spatial model for the distribution of individual bands over the South Atlantic Slope.

Anderson (1989b) notes that data from the Savannah River Site and the Richard B. Russell Reservoir "suggest that a decline in utilization of the Coastal Plain may have occurred at the same time as an increase in utilization of the Piedmont [and] may be a part of a trend noted in the terminal Early Archaic in the general region. Settlement patterning in any given area was thus likely shaped by a range of variables, such as local resource structure, as well as by more regional trends in climate, population density, and these

¹ Some researchers (see, for instance, Anderson 1992) classify Dalton as Paleoindian while others (Goodyear et al. 1989) classify it as Archaic.

patterns apparently changed appreciably over time" (Anderson 1992:39). Data from the Laurens-Anderson study and the Savannah River project suggests that inter-riverine sites will be found on hills between watershed divides and riverine sites will be located on knolls adjacent to a major confluence.

Middle Archaic

Morrow Mountain and Guilford points constituted the primary evidence for Middle Archaic (5000 to 3000 B.C.) occupation in the Laurens-Anderson corridor (Goodyear et al. 1979). Morrow Mountain constituted the vast bulk of these projectile points and were present in both the I and II varieties.² Over 95% of the 145 points were manufactured from the local quartz, which parallels other findings in Piedmont South Carolina. Guilford was not nearly as prominent and consisted of 35 finished specimens or preforms, all of which were manufactured from quartz.³

The Middle Archaic period was found to consist of the largest number of sites. In terms of geographic distribution, Goodyear et al. (1979) found that the Morrow Mountain phase was much like the Palmer phase, with sites occurring on ridges between watersheds. However, the almost

complete reliance on local quartz separates the Morrow Mountain and Guilford phase sharply from the earlier Palmer phase. They suggest that "[t]he large number of Middle Archaic sites well dispersed through the inter-riverine areas and the abundant nature of chipped quartz remains on these sites suggest frequent movement and activity throughout the Piedmont of South Carolina" (Goodyear et al. 1979:207). Data from early reservoir projects (see, for example, Wauchope 1966) as well as inter-riverine observations by Caldwell (1954; 1958) and Coe (1952) made it clear that there were sharp contrasts between riverine and inter-riverine sites in terms of artifact diversity and density, and in the use of shellfish (Sassaman and Anderson 1994:134). With the advent of cultural resource management in the 1970s, additional data was available and further emphasized these differences. All of this data indicated that the largest and densest sites were located along large rivers, and that small, sparse sites were found throughout the uplands. While these differences were clear, what remained unclear was the relationship between riverine and inter-riverine sites in a settlement-subsistence system, and how, if at all, this system changed over time (Sassaman and Anderson 1994:135).

House and Ballenger studied this issue during their survey work on the proposed Interstate 77 project in 1976. They classified riverine zones of containing only the largest rivers while inter-riverine zones consisted of smaller rivers and streams. House and Ballenger (1976) argued that streams with a ranking of 3 or higher⁴

² Coe (1964) describes Morrow Mountain I as a small triangular blade with a short pointed stem, while the Morrow Mountain II is described as a long narrow blade with a long tapered stem. While he describes them as different types, he notes that many people have chosen not distinguish between the two.

³ Preforms represent an intermediate stage between flakes from secondary cores and quarry blades. Some are worked bifacially, although most are unifacial and still retain the platform and bulb of percussion. Quarry blades are usually bifacially worked and are made to allow easy transportation of lithic materials until the time it is needed to be made into a projectile point. Some researchers have used the terms preform and quarry blade interchangeably, meaning the bifacially worked ovate blade.

⁴ According to the system, based on Strahler (1964) 1st order streams are the fingertip tributaries at the head of a stream and may either be year-round or seasonally flowing streams. A 2nd order stream is formed by the confluence of two 1st order streams. A 3rd order stream is formed by the confluence of two 2nd order streams, etc. This system requires that at least two streams of a given order be joined to form a stream of the next highest order. The main stem of a river will always have the highest order.

contained resources that were not abundant in the uplands (fish, turtle, raccoon, etc.), whereas smaller streams had a higher density of deer and nut masts. The resulting archaeological assemblages from these distinct areas should, themselves, be distinct (House and Ballenger 1976; Sassaman and Anderson 1994). They divided their sites into habitation and extraction sites⁵ using a lithic tool classification scheme that would allow functional sorting of the two site types. From the information gathered using this analysis, coupled with data on the seasonal availability of resources, they created a Middle and Late Archaic settlement model:

involving spring and summer residence along major rivers; a move to seasonal base camps in upland creek valleys in September to take advantage of deer concentration in upland hardwood zones, with some exploitation of other resources as well; and then a return to riverine-located winter quarters with permanent houses in about December when the coldest months arrived, the deer rutting season came to an end, and the acorn mast in the hardwood forests began to be exhausted (House and Ballenger 1976:117).

The Windy Ridge site (House and Wogaman 1978), while fitting the expected upland site profile as proposed by House and Ballenger (1976), may have been used as a habitation site during the Middle Archaic. Other projects also complicated the model. Work in the Richard B. Russell Reservoir (Anderson and Schuldenrein

1985; Tippet and Marquardt 1981) examined a number of sites with Morrow Mountain components. Interestingly, none of these riverine sites produced denser or more diverse remains than did inter-riverine sites. This suggested that Middle Archaic people were not using the riverine and inter-riverine areas much differently in this part of the state (Sassaman and Anderson 1994:137).

Sassaman (1983) attempted to more closely examine Middle and Late Archaic settlement patterns by examining sites from a number of piedmont studies. He found that Middle Archaic settlement in the South Carolina Piedmont did not fit the riverine-inter-riverine model. This suggested that Middle Archaic people were much more mobile, perhaps moving residences every few weeks which fit Binford's (1980) definition of a foraging society. Binford (1980) proposed that foragers had high levels of residential mobility, moving camps often to take advantage of dispersed, but similar resource patches. Collectors stayed in one location longer, by sending out specialized work parties to exploit resources in widely dispersed and distinct resource patches. He believed that differences in environmental structure could be traced to large scale climactic factors. He further noted that a collector system could arise under any conditions that limited the ability of hunter-gatherers to relocate residences. During his work in the Haw River area of North Carolina, Cable (1982) argued that postglacial warming at the end of the Pleistocene led to increased vegetational homogeneity, which encouraged foraging.⁶

Sassaman (1983) suggests that this indicates a large degree of homogeneity of the piedmont environments. They also had a high degree of social flexibility, allowing them to pick up and move when needed. This high level of

⁵ An extraction site is an area where resources (such as fish, lithic raw material, etc.) were obtained and is often represented by lithic debitage and perhaps small camp sites. A habitation site is a seasonal or temporary camp where these resources were usually consumed, used, or worked.

⁶ Since the vegetation was homogeneous and there were no concentrations of resources people moved from place to place foraging rather than settling near or in these resource concentrations.

mobility did not allow them to transport much material, which in turn, alleviated the need for elaborate or specialized tools to procure and process resources at locations distant from camp. Since quartz is practically everywhere in the piedmont, tools could be easily replaced and were expedient. The high mobility and the expediency of tools help to explain the abundance of Middle Archaic sites in the piedmont without having to imply a population explosion. Sassaman called this model the "Adaptive Flexibility" model (Sassaman 1983; Sassaman and Anderson 1994).

Late Archaic

Savannah River Stemmed and Otarre⁷ stemmed points are the primary indicators of Late Archaic settlement in the Laurens-Anderson study area. Ten Savannah River phase sites and seven Otarre phase sites were identified. Quartz tools, which were found in overwhelming abundance at earlier sites, consisted only of about 57% of the Savannah River assemblage. Other materials included "silicates, volcanic slate/argillite, and unknown igneous/metamorphic" (Goodyear et al. 1979:207). The Otarre assemblage reflected a trend away from igneous/metamorphic rock, with a concentration of quartz and siliceous materials. The incorporation of more types of lithic raw material as well as the fact that Late Archaic diagnostics are much fewer than Middle Archaic diagnostic artifacts indicates a sharp decrease in residential mobility.

Many of these Late Archaic sites produced fire cracked rock which was found on major ridges between watersheds. Goodyear et al. (1979:209-210) found that the inter-riverine picture of the Late Archaic contrasted quite sharply with river sites. Artifacts at riverine sites were diverse and included steatite vessels and netsinkers⁸, ground

stone axes, rock mortars and handstones, atlatl weights, and chipped stone drills. In the upland sites, the assemblage consists almost entirely of chipped stone bifaces and debitage. Purrington (1983) also noted this trend for the mountain region of North Carolina. At the Savannah River Plant, both riverine and upland sites contained a full range of tools, but no architectural features have been located.

Soapstone became an important lithic resource in the Late Archaic period for manufacturing of cooking vessels, and a number of soapstone quarries have been identified in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties (Ferguson 1976). Unfortunately, little is known about patterns in local soapstone use, although Elliott (1981) argues that soapstone exchange in the upcountry was facilitated by local reciprocal relationships. Soapstone was also probably used as a mechanism to maintain long distance relationships through long distance trade. Sassaman et al. state that:

[c]ompared to sites in the upper and lower reaches of the Coastal Plain, a higher proportion of sites in the middle portion of the plain contain soapstone artifacts. This may indicate that soapstone distributions were not merely the result of distance-decay from sources, but were much more dependent on the social composition of exchange alliances (Sassaman et al. 1988:90).

For the Late Archaic, John White (1982) also applied a riverine/inter-riverine dichotomy. He demonstrated that riverine sites were much

⁷ According to Oliver (1981) the Otarre type is contemporaneous with the Savannah River stemmed type and fall within the category of "Small Savannah River Stemmed".

⁸ Sassaman (1991:87-88) states that "perforated

and grooved objects are common items in Late Archaic assemblages of the Savannah River Valley. Both the grooved and perforated varieties have been referred to as "netsinkers", but the more common perforated slave was apparently used as a cooking stone."

more dense and diverse than inter-riverine sites, but also identified the existence of diverse and sometimes dense assemblages at upland sites. He argued that they were habitation camps during periods of seasonal dispersal from riverine aggregation bases.

Although Steven Savage (1989) has proposed a "Late Archaic Landscape" model, a number of researchers (i.e. Anderson 1989a; Cable 1994; and Rafferty 1992) have noted that his study was seriously flawed by the "misappropriation of data from the Richard B. Russell survey" (Sassaman and Anderson 1994:142). The purpose of the work was to attempt to apply the locational methods of GIS to the analysis of Late Archaic social systems in the Upper Savannah River Valley. However, he only chose to use early intensive survey data and ignored subsequent data from testing and excavation. In addition, he chose to ignore problems such as multicomponentcy and representativeness (Cable 1994). Although it was considered a noteworthy study since it was the first to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for the analysis of settlement distribution, "the errors detract from the potential value of Savage's approach" (Sassaman and Anderson 1994:142).

Woodland Period

The Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina coast and much later in the Carolina Piedmont, about 500 B.C. Regardless, the period from 2000 to 500 B.C. was a period of tremendous change.

The subsistence economy during this period was based primarily on deer hunting and fishing, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, reptiles, and shellfish. Various calculations of the probable yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from some coastal sites indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable. Further inland it seems likely that many Native American groups

continued the previous established patterns of band mobility. These frequent moves would allow the groups to take advantage of various seasonal resources, such as shad and sturgeon in the spring, nut masts in the fall, and turkeys during the winter.

Early Woodland

Brooks and Hanson (1987) noted significant changes in the density and distribution of upland tributary sites during the Woodland period in the Steel Creek area of the Savannah River Plant. Brooks proposed that as tributary associated habitats became more productive with floodplain maturation that upland tributary terraces became areas of more permanent occupation. For the Savannah River area, the data suggested to Brooks that annual settlement ranges in the Early Woodland period were restricted to tributary watersheds (Sassaman et al. 1990:315).

Artifacts typical of the Early Woodland in the Upper Piedmont consist of Dunlap and Swannanoa ceramics (similar to the Kellogg focus of Northern Georgia). The Dunlap series is characterized by a medium to coarse sand paste, fabric impressions, and vessels with a simple jar or cup form. The Swannanoa ceramics, with heavy crushed quartz temper, are cord marked or fabric impressed conical jars and simple bowls. Other surface treatments consist of simple stamping, check stamping, and smoothed plain (Keel 1976:230). Early Woodland projectile point types consist of Savannah River Stemmed (and its variants) and Swannanoa Stemmed.

Land use during the Early Woodland period in some areas of the Piedmont suggests extensive use of the inter-riverine zone. Two sites (one in Greenville County and one in Laurens County) contained dense remains and were located on the south face of a slope adjacent to springs. Goodyear et al. (1979:230) suggest that these sites "reflect a fall-winter occupation period with subsistence activities primarily related to nut gathering and deer hunting. If these two sites in

fact represent fall-winter base camps it would represent a strong break with previous Archaic systems and their settlement strategies for exploiting inter-riverine biotic resources". Based on these previous studies, Early Woodland sites are most likely to be found adjacent to springs or the upland terraces of tributaries.

Middle Woodland

The Middle Woodland period is found "virtually lacking" in the Laurens-Anderson inter-riverine zone. One densely occupied site in adjacent Laurens County was found in an unusually large floodplain of a rank 2 stream. Goodyear et al. state that:

[g]iven the habitation like character of this site, plus the large number of simple stamped bearing floodplain sites along larger streams such as the Reedy River, it is tempting to see agriculture playing a role in the apparent re-orientation to floodplain environments during the middle Woodland period in the Piedmont environment. In this regard, the middle Woodland period sites and their locations would seem to presage the late prehistoric Mississippian period pattern during the latter, where large agriculturally related villages were constructed along fertile stretches of floodplain (Goodyear et al. 1979:230-231).

This new pattern is also reflected in the Savannah River Valley where Savannah terrace sites at the mouth of Upper Three Runs Creek were being occupied again for intensive settlement. Midden accumulations at several sites indicate long term occupation or repeated occupations of these sites by relatively large groups (Sassaman et al. 1990:315).

Pottery typical of the Middle Woodland in the Upper Piedmont consists of the Pigeon and Cartersville series. Pigeon is quartz tempered with surface treatments of check stamping, simple stamping, and brushing. The Cartersville type is characterized by sand or grit paste with the primary surface treatment being cordmarking, although there are also check stamped and simple stamped varieties. The Cartersville series is thought to be closely related to the Deptford series on the Coast. Anderson and Schuldenrein (1985:720) suggest that Cartersville continues well into the Late Woodland period. Projectile points typically found in association with this pottery are the Pigeon Side Notched and Corner Notched types.

Testing at 38LU107 (Wood and Gresham 1981) demonstrated that one of the most intensive occupations of this multicomponent site was during the Middle Woodland period. This site is located on a knoll adjacent to South Rabon Creek, near its confluence with North Rabon Creek. A number of features were encountered including a large, deep pit, post holes, and a stone hearth. This indicated that even sites on plowed knolls can and do produce subsurface features.

Since the Middle Woodland period reflects a new pattern of settlement, questions regarding how quickly this change occurred and how the transition to horticulture affected their material culture should be examined. Clearly, this change did not occur over night and perhaps examination of radiocarbon dates from upland and riverine sites during this transition period will begin to clarify questions regarding change in lifeways.

Late Woodland

Small triangular points which are generally believed to be diagnostic of the Late Woodland and Mississippian periods consisted of 12 examples in the Laurens-Anderson study. Ten of these were manufactured from quartz while the other two were manufactured from either

rhyolite or a Piedmont silicate. These projectile points were typed as "Mississippian triangulars" and included what they believed were Uwharrie or Pee Dee Triangular types and the Hamilton Incurvate Triangular type. Napier and Connestee Series pottery are typical Late Woodland types for the Upper Piedmont region. The Napier series is a fine sand tempered ware with fine complicated stamped designs. The Connestee series is a thin walled sand tempered ware with brushed or simple stamped surface decorations. There are also cordmarked, check stamped, fabric impressed, and plain varieties (Trinkley 1990).

According to Sassaman et al. (1990:317) Late Woodland occupations in the Savannah River Valley consisted of small habitation sites along all available terrace locations of both tributaries and the Savannah River. This increasing use of low-lying terraces suggests the increased exploitation of floodplain habitats, perhaps including maize agriculture, although no direct evidence has yet been found at the Savannah River Site.

Keel (1976) reported on the Garden Creek Mound No. 3 which contained a dominant Connestee component based on George Heye's 1915 examination of the mound. Later work at Garden Creek Mound No. 2 examined a portion of a village with a large quantity of Connestee remains. A number of post holes were exposed revealing one discernable square house with rounded corners measuring about 19 by 19 feet in outline. In addition, there were a number refuse pits and hearths. The hearths included both rock filled and surface hearths. There were also a number of burial pits (see Keel 1976:99). It is likely that Connestee sites in the Upper Piedmont will contain similar features.

Mississippian Period

The South Appalachian Mississippian period, from about A.D. 1100 to A.D. 1640 is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European

disease.⁹ The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers.

In the Upper Piedmont, Mississippian pottery includes the Pisgah and Qualla series. Pisgah ceramics are tempered with unmodified river sand, although some earlier examples contain both river sand and crushed quartz. It is decorated with complicated stamping, check stamping and ladder-like rectilinear patterns (Dickens 1970; Holden 1966). It should be noted that the Qualla series extends well into the historic period (ca.1500-1908) and is characterized by complicated stamping and bold incising. Other types described by Egloff (1967) include burnished, plain, check stamped, cord marked, and corncob impressed. At Tuckasegee brushed examples were also identified (Keel 1976). Other artifacts associated with the Mississippian period include triangular projectile points, flake scrapers, microtools, gravers, perforators, drill, ground stone objects (celts, pipes, and discoidals), and worked shell and mica (Keel 1976).

Very little evidence of Mississippian period occupation was found in the Laurens-Anderson inter-riverine survey area which is not surprising given the focus on riverine resources during this time period. Very little evidence of Mississippian occupation has been documented at the Savannah River Plant and no formal settlement-subsistence model has been created for this area (Sassaman et al. 1990:317). However, Anderson (1994) has provided a detailed examination of evidence for political change at Mississippian sites in the Savannah River Valley and should be consulted for more information.

Excavations at large Mississippian sites in

⁹ Small pox was a major cause of death to a large number of Native Americans during the historic period. The smallpox epidemics of 1734 and 1783 reportedly killed half of the Cherokee population (Hatley 1993).

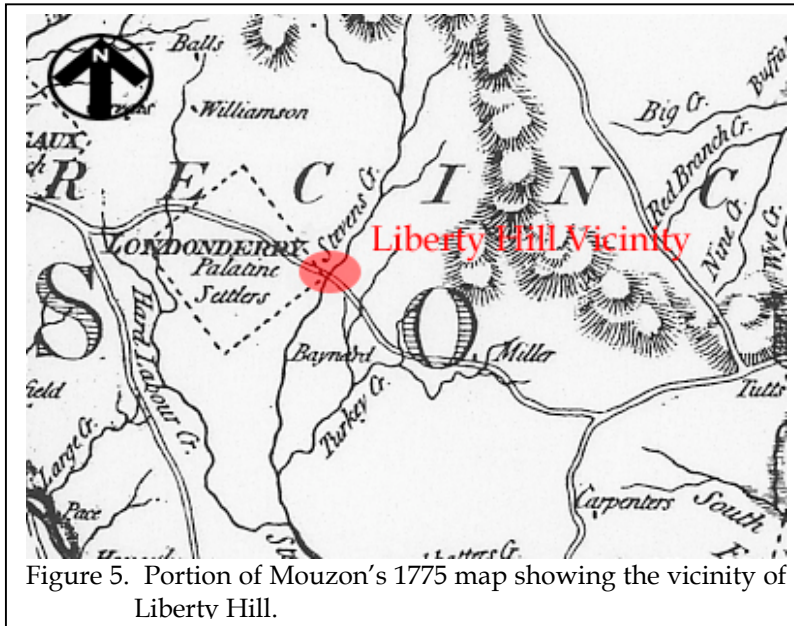


Figure 5. Portion of Mouzon's 1775 map showing the vicinity of Liberty Hill.

the Upper Piedmont include work at the I.C. Few site which was examined as a part of the Keowee-Toxaway Reservoir project sponsored by Duke Power Company (Grange 1972). Simpson's Field (38AN8) on the Savannah River was also investigated during the Richard B. Russell Reservoir studies (Wood et al. 1986). Work at the Chauga site (38OC47) in nearby Oconee County evidenced occupation in the Early and Late Mississippian period. Ten stages of mound building were found at the site along with burials and palisades. There is evidence for increasing impoverishment of the residents through time, since burials associated with the latest phases of mound building contained fewer grave goods than earlier phases in both the occupation during the Early Mississippian and the Late Mississippian (Anderson 1994:303-305). Homes Hogue Wilson (1986) examined burials from the Warren Wilson site in western North Carolina and provided some preliminary conclusions regarding social structure based on location of burials according to age and sex. For instance, she found more males than females were buried under structure floors. These males included primarily those under 25 or over 35 years old. She also found that individuals buried inside of structures were more likely to have burial goods than those buried in public

areas. Burial feature types included pit burials, side-chambered burials, and central-chambered burials. Studies such as this can give great insight into the social organization of prehistoric societies.

The largest amount of regional work has taken place in the North Carolina mountains at sites such as Tuckasegee, Garden Creek, and Warren Wilson. At Tuckasegee a possible town house was uncovered measuring about 23 feet in diameter with a central hearth (Keel 1976). At Warren Wilson several roughly square structures were uncovered and they all measured on the average about 21 feet square. Burials were common inside of these houses

and pit features were abundant. Artifacts at the Warren Wilson site included ceramics from the Swannanoa series up through the Pisgah series. (Dickens 1970).

Historic Overview

Although exploration of the Savannah River Valley began as early as the sixteenth century (DePratter 1989), substantial settlement of the area did not begin until after the Yamassee Indian War (1715-1718). By the mid-eighteenth century, cattle ranchers and subsistence farmers cleared land and established small farms and plantations (Kovacik and Winberry 1987:69-71), and by the eve of the American Revolution cattle ranching was well established in the area (Brooks 1981).

After the initial settlements of the 1750s the white population of the Up Country did not increase significantly until 1761, with the expulsion of the Native American population at the end of the Cherokee War. This created a second wave of immigration and settlement, spearheaded by farmers from the northern colonies of North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland,

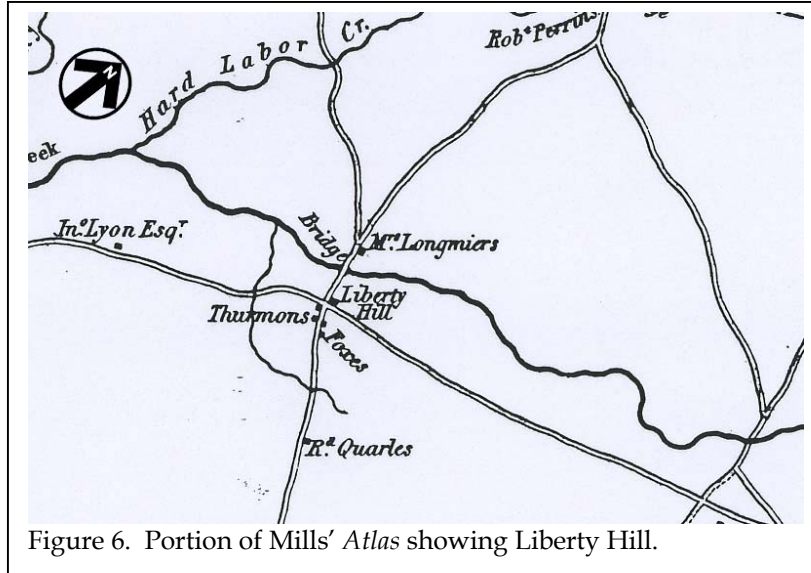


Figure 6. Portion of Mills' Atlas showing Liberty Hill.

and Pennsylvania. These settlers developed a self-sufficient economy based on planting flax, tobacco, corn, wheat, and oats, and raising cattle and hogs for their own use. Slaves were relatively uncommon until the early 1800s.

In this early period of European settlement there was little connection with the legal authorities on the coast (centered in Charleston), leaving the Up Country largely autonomous. This led to the Regulator Movement of the 1760s, a vigilante organization that attempted to maintain order and provide security. By the eve of the Revolution, two-thirds of the South Carolina population lived in the Up Country. Mouzon's 1775 *An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina* shows the eastern portion of Londonderry in the modern day Liberty Hill area. Londonderry was described as an area of Palatine Settlers (Figure 5).

By the onset of the American Revolution, the population of the Up Country was quite diverse in its ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds. These differences seemed to localize the hostilities between Whigs and Tories living side by side (Wallace 1951).

Probably the most significant Revolutionary War activity in the area took place

in modern-day Greenwood County, just north of Liberty Hill. This was at Ninety-Six, a British stronghold in the Up Country (at the time, the Liberty Hill area was part of the Ninety Six Precinct) (see Figure 5). The earthen star-shaped fort commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John H. Cruger fell under siege by troops under the command of General Nathaniel Greene on June 18, 1781. The attempt to capture the fort failed, and Greene retreated toward Winnsboro. Later the British abandoned the fort because they were expecting the French at Beaufort.

The evacuation of Ninety-Six rendered the British hold on the middle and back country precarious and unprofitable. Partisans cut communications, seized supplies, and captured abandoned posts. No attempt was made to re-establish a British hold in the back country (Wallace 1951:317).

It is reported that Liberty Hill was named for the "Liberty Pole" that was raised by the Patriots of the American Revolution (Edmonds 1999: 378). We have been unable, however, to find a historic account verifying this. Historically, liberty poles, which were poles with banners, were raised to protest the Stamp Act of 1765 (<http://www.answers.com/topic/liberty-pole>). After the Revolution, liberty poles were a form of protest against the new government and by the nineteenth century, a liberty pole was a flagpole that was raised to support certain issues (<http://www.answers.com/topic/liberty-pole>).

The Liberty Hill area was historically part of the Edgefield District. In 1826 Mills remarks that the district is historically similar to other nearby districts:

There is nothing that distinguishes the settlement of Edgefield from that of other districts in the upper and middle country. They were all gradually settled as the tide of emigration rolled from the north and east. It however may be observed of this, in contradistinction to some other districts, which were peopled a good deal by foreigners and their immediate descendants, (namely, by Irish, Scotch, and Dutch, mixed with a few English,) that Edgefield was settled principally, and indeed almost altogether, by emigrants from Virginia and North Carolina (Mills 1972[1826]:519-520).

The 1820 Mills' *Atlas* of Edgefield District (Figure 6) shows Liberty Hill just east of Cuffey Town Creek. The subscribers in the area include Foxes, Thurmons, and Mrs. Longmiers [sic].

By 1800, the population of Edgefield District consisted of 13,063 whites, 5,006 African-American slaves, and 61 free blacks, totaling 18,130. In twenty years the population increased by about 7,000 with 12,864 whites, 19,198 slaves, and 57 free blacks, for a total of 25,119 individuals (Mills 1972[1826]: 527, 664). By 1850, the population had increased substantially. There were 16,252 whites, 22,725 slaves, and 285 free blacks, totaling 39,262. In the years preceding the Civil War, the population growth in the state slowed considerably as planters and farmers left the exhausted soils of South Carolina and moved to Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi (Kovacik and Winberry 1987: 92-93).

The Edgefield District saw some activity during the Civil War. General H.J. Kilpatrick of the Union Army fought General Joseph Wheeler's troops at Blackville, Williston, and Aiken during his threat to Augusta (Wallace 1951: 548).

It was not until the end of the Civil War that Aiken, to the southeast, came under attack.

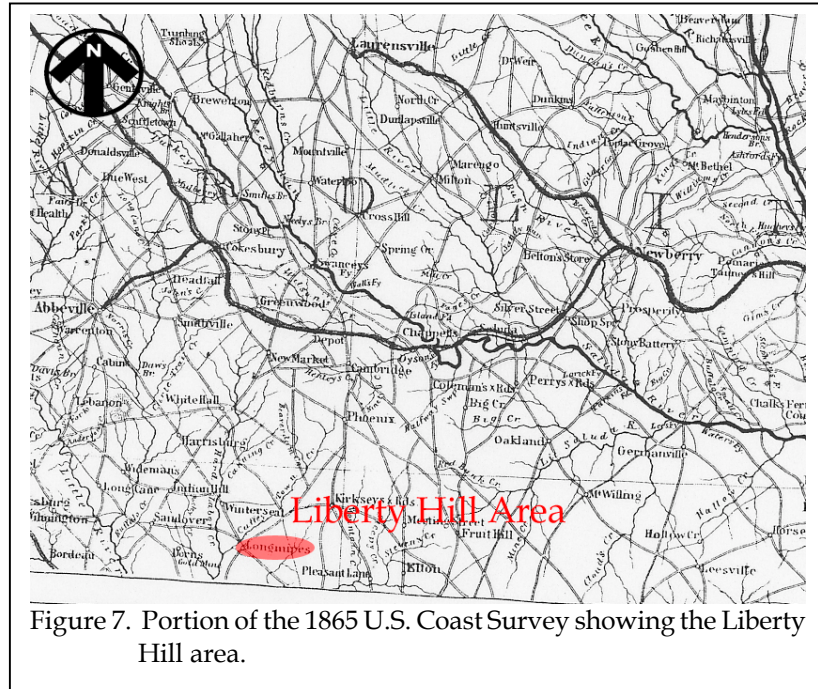
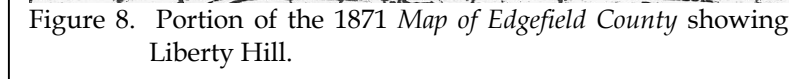


Figure 7. Portion of the 1865 U.S. Coast Survey showing the Liberty Hill area.

With the fall of Savannah, General O.H. Hill was placed in charge of the Confederate forces in Augusta, where it was thought that Sherman's troops would surely head in order to destroy the vast stores of cotton. By late January 1865, Union forces were rapidly advancing through South Carolina, having taken Pocotaligo on January 14th and breaking the Charleston-Savannah railway for the first time during the war. The Confederate forces established a defensive line near Three Runs in Aiken County, near where the Savannah River Plant site is today. The Union forces reached Allendale by the 31st and succeeded in taking Blackville, breaking the Charleston-Hamburg Railroad connection.

Union troops, including the 14th and the 20th Corps as well as Major General Hugh Judson



Edmonds (1999) says that around the Civil War, Liberty Hill “was a busy commercial center . . . includ[ing] several general stores, two blacksmith shops, two show shops, a cabinet shop, a tanning vat, and two tailor shops” (Edmonds 1999: 378). It is unclear, however, where Edmonds received his information as very little of his work

Liberty Hill did boast a grist mill, which was located on Cuffeytown Creek where the remains are still evident. Edmonds (1999: 379) says that the mill, called the “Shinburg Grist Mill” was owned by the Sheppard family. An 1888 flood destroyed most of the mill.

Exhausted by war and stunned by the upheaval of their economic and social system, the Edgefield District, as well as the rest of the South, were in a state of confusion and disarray. Immediately after the Civil War, cotton was king, causing many Southerners to plant cotton in the hope of recouping losses from the war. The single largest problem across the South, however, was labor. While some freedmen stayed to work, many others left.

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PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC OVERVIEW

immediately after the War, with variable results. The Freedmen's Bureau attempted to establish a system of wage labor, but the effort was largely tempered by the enactment of the Black Codes by the South Carolina Legislature in September 1865. These Codes allowed nominal freedom, while establishing a new kind of slavery, severely restricting the rights and freedoms of the black majority (see Orser 1988: 50).

Added to the Codes were oppressive contracts, which reinforced the power of the plantation owner and degraded the freedom of the Blacks. The freedmen found power, however, in their ability to break their contracts and move to a new plantation, beginning a new contract. With the high price of cotton and the scarcity of labor, this mechanism caused tremendous agitation to the plantation owners.

Gradually owners turned away from wage labor contracts to two kinds of tenancy – sharecropping and renting. While very different,

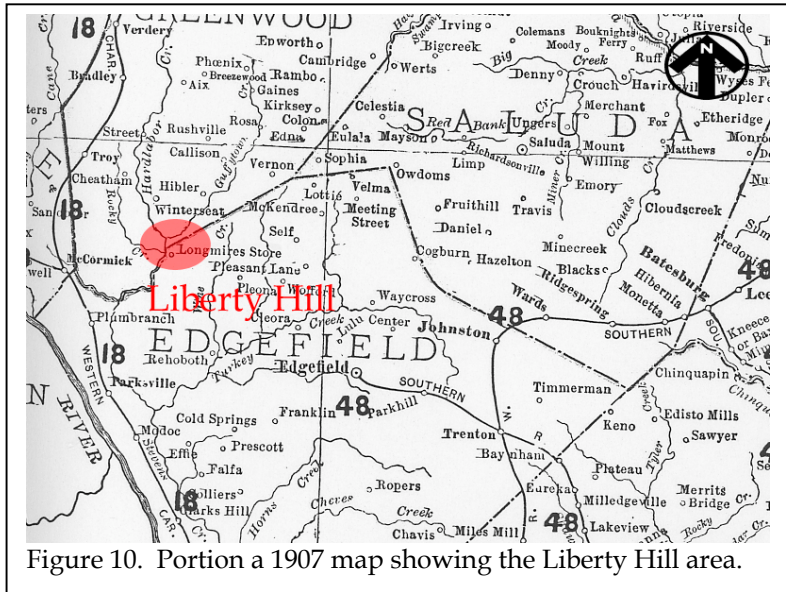


Figure 10. Portion a 1907 map showing the Liberty Hill area.

both succeeded in making land ownership very difficult, if not impossible, for the vast majority of Blacks. Sharecropping required the tenant to pay his landlord part of the crop produced, while renting required that he pay a fixed rent in either crops or money. In sharecropping, the tenant supplied the labor and one-half of the fertilizer, the landlord supplied everything else – land, house, tools, work animals, animal feed, wood for fuel, and the other half of the needed fertilizer. In return, the landlord received half of the crop at harvest. This system became known as “working on halves,” and the tenants as “half hands,” or “half tenants.”

In share-renting, the landlord supplied the land, housing, and either one-quarter or one-third of the fertilizer costs. The tenant supplied the labor, animals, animal feed, tools, seed, and the remainder of the fertilizer. At harvest, the crop was divided in proportion to the amount of fertilizer that each party supplied. A number of variations on this occurred,

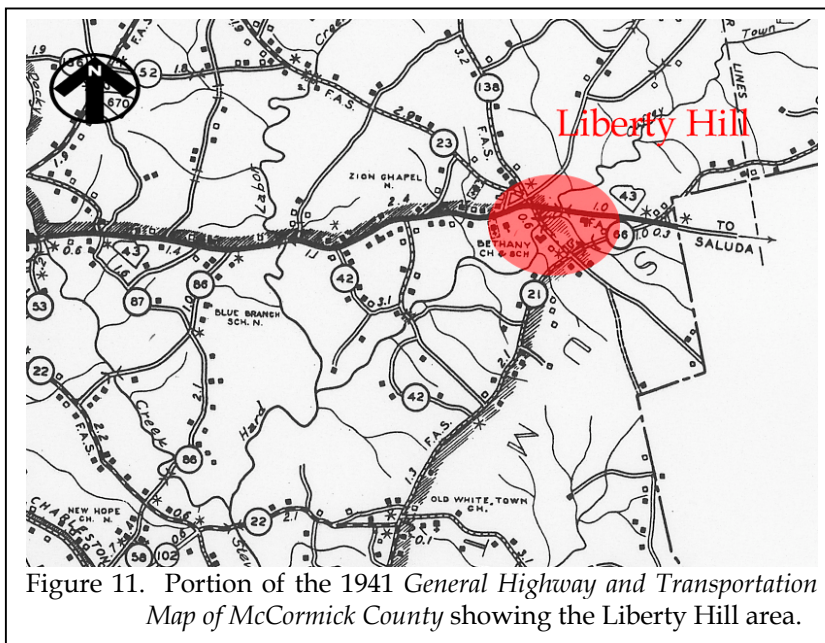


Figure 11. Portion of the 1941 General Highway and Transportation Map of McCormick County showing the Liberty Hill area.

one of the most common being “third and fourth,” where the landlord received one-fourth of the cotton crop and one-third of all other crops. In cash-renting, the landlord provided the land and housing, with the renter providing everything else and paying a fixed per-acre rent in cash.

The 1871 *Map of Edgefield County* shows Liberty Hill with several subscribers in the area (Figure 8). These include Dr. Lewis, Mrs. Reynolds (which appears to be the same location as Mrs. Longmires property in the 1820 Mills’ map in Figure 6), and Timmerman. By 1873, the *Edgefield County Geological and Agricultural Map* (Figure 9) again shows the Liberty Hill area as being called “Longmires.” Three structures are shown in the area.

In the 1880s, Edgefield County had no cotton mills and none under construction. Cotton was, however, being produced in large amounts and it was estimated that the average cost of producing merchantable cotton was about eight cents a pound and 40 dollars to bale 500 pounds. It appears that a large portion of the manufacturing in the county was milling grain or producing lumber and turpentine. Of the 84 manufacturing establishments, there were 55 grist mills (including the Shinburg Mill located on Cuffeytown Creek in Liberty Hill), 22 lumber mills, and 6 turpentine establishments (Anonymous 1884).

Edgefield County produced primarily cotton with 58,366 acres producing 20,960 bales. A total of 38,316 acres was planted in corn producing 306,120 bushels (Anonymous 1907: 574). Between 1890 and 1900, Edgefield County’s population dropped dramatically from 49,259 to 25,478.

The 1907 map showing South Carolina Railroads (Figure 10), shows “Longmires Store,” but no rail line is in the vicinity.

The formation of McCormick County is relatively recent, being created in 1916 when portions of Greenwood, Abbeville, and Edgefield

gave portions of their land. The 1941 *General Highway and Transportation Map of McCormick County* (Figure 11), is one of the only historic maps of McCormick County that was located. Even though several structures are shown in the Liberty Hill area, no name is labeled on the community.

RESEARCH METHODS AND FINDINGS

Introduction

As previously mentioned, the purpose of this project is to determine if any historic resources might be affected by a proposed transmission line through the Liberty Hill area. To accomplish this, a brief historic study and a field architectural survey were performed.

Architectural Survey

The architectural survey would record buildings, sites, structures, and objects that appeared to have been constructed before 1950 in the Liberty Hill area. Typical of such projects, this survey recorded only those which have retained "some measure of its historic integrity" (Vivian n.d.:5) and which were visible from public roads.

For each identified resource, we completed a Statewide Survey Site Form and at

least two representative photographs were taken. Permanent control numbers were assigned by the Survey Staff of the S.C. Department of Archives and History at the conclusion of the study. The Site Forms for the resources identified during this study will be submitted to the S.C. Department of Archives and History.

Architectural sites will be evaluated for further work based on the eligibility criteria for the National Register of Historic Places. Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead federal agency, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The criteria for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places is described by 36CFR60.4, which states:

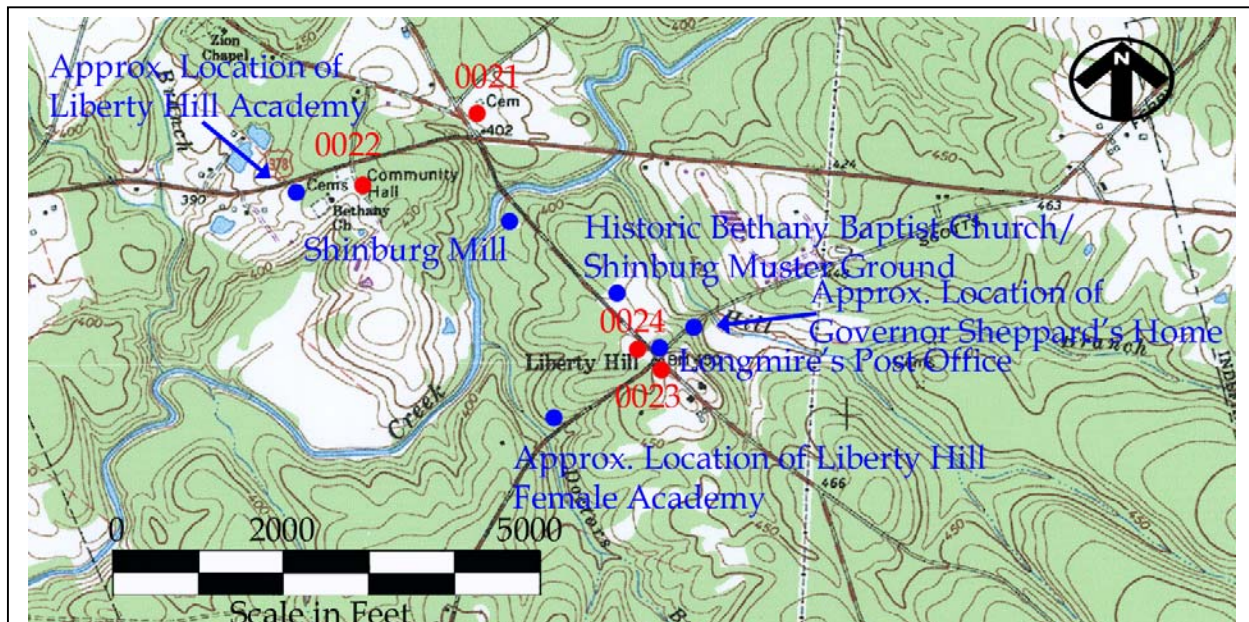


Figure 12. Topographic map showing the Liberty Hill area with identified resources (red-standing architectural sites; blue-possible archaeological sites).



Figure 13. Resource 0021, the Hollingsworth House.

c. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

d. that have yielded, or may be likely to

yield, information important in prehistory or history.

the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

a. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

b. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

Architectural Findings

Although all the roads in the Liberty Hill area were driven, the *Upper Savannah Historical Program* (1972) was used as a base. A total of four



Figure 14. Edmonds (1999) photo of 0021.



Figure 15. Resource 0022, the Bethany Baptist Church School.

resources (0021-0024) were recorded during the architectural reconnaissance (Figure 12). Only one of these resources, the Bethany Church School (0022) is recommended eligible for the National Register. All of the resources, however, are well shielded from the proposed transmission corridor.

Resource **0021** is the Hollingsworth House (Figure 13). The Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council (1972) says that this house is “possibly the oldest house in the Liberty Hill area.” The publication also states that the house is rumored to have been built in the eighteenth century (Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council 1972). Edmonds mimics this account, although neither source provided any evidence to support the statement (Edmonds 1999:380).

The house is rectangular in shape with a lateral gable roof and a porch that covers the façade. The house is covered in weatherboard, however, the right elevation evidences a poor repair job. The foundation was of brick pier, but has been filled in with a stuccoed masonry. Two chimneys are located on the rear of the house (the repair job on the right elevation appears to have been the location of a chimney that has been

removed). In Edmonds (1999:380) book, he has a photograph of the house (date unknown) (Figure 14). Even when comparing this older photo to the modern one, we can see that the front porch has been reworked, the rear addition has been closed in, and storm windows and shutters have been added. A bay window has been added to the left elevation.

While the house may have been built in the eighteenth century, no evidence that early can be

seen. We estimate the house to date more to c. 1820. Mills’ *Atlas* of 1825 shows what may be this structure as “Mr. Longmiers” (see Figure 6). The house has gone through a tremendous amount of change and no longer retains the integrity needed to support National Register eligibility. Therefore, **0021** is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The closest proposed transmission route is still about 0.35 mile from the house and cannot be seen through dense forest.

Site **0022** is the c. 1920 Bethany Church School (Figure 15). This building is a square shape, one-story, frame structure with weatherboard siding. The roof is a centered gable on hip with a porch over the entrance bay. The pediment over the porch is shingled in diamond, fishscale, and coursed patterns.

The 1941 *General Highway and Transportation Map of McCormick County* shows this structure as a school (see Figure 11). Edmonds (1999: 379) says this school was built to replace the Liberty Hill Female Academy after it burned in 1916. The school (0022) was also said to have been co-ed (Edmonds 1999: 379).

It appears that very little alteration has

occurred on the structure, however, it is unknown what has been done on the inside. Overall, the structure contains good architectural integrity and even this brief study of the Liberty Hill area has provided some information about the school-related history. Site **0022** is recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (events in history).

This structure, however, is 0.5 mile from the closest proposed transmission corridor. Dense woods prevent any visual intrusion from the power lines.

Site **0023** is a c. 1850 house (Figure 16). This one-story, frame house has a saltbox style, raised seam metal roof and a porch that covers most of the façade. The foundation is brick piers with fill. A rear addition has been added, however, the date of that addition is unknown (Figure 17). A synthetic siding now covers the structure. A corbelled chimney and windows featuring a 9/6 pattern are also represented.

This house exhibits an interesting design, but has lost its physical integrity through alterations in design (i.e. synthetic siding). Site **0023** is recommended not eligible for the National Register. This house is about 0.2 mile from the southern-most proposed



Figure 16. Resource 0023, a c. 1850 house.

transmission corridor. While a dense forest shields most of the corridor from view, the transmission line may be seen from the road.

Site **0024** is a c. 1920 Craftsman style house (Figure 18). The roof is an end to front gable with a porch covering the façade. Brick is located in the foundation. The house has been altered by the



Figure 17. Resource 0023 showing the rear addition.



Figure 18. Resource 0024, a c. 1920 house.

addition of aluminum siding and the installation of a large window on the left façade.

Site **0024** is recommended not eligible for the National Register. This structure is about 750 feet from the southern-most proposed corridor, but is mostly shielded by forest. The corridor, however, may be able to be seen from the road.

Other Resources in the Liberty Hill Area

The *Upper Savannah Historical Program* (1972) also mentioned several other resources in Liberty Hill (see Figure 12 for approximate locations).

Scott's Ferry Road - This historic road connected Eastern McCormick County to Augusta, Georgia. Edmonds (1999: 378) says that the intersection of Scott's Ferry Road (S-138) and Charleston Road (S-21) was a "busy commercial

center." The southern-most proposed transmission corridor does pass over this road (about 0.2 mile to the northwest of the intersection), however, an existing transmission line, which is roughly the same voltage as the proposed line, already crosses Scott's Ferry Road in Liberty Hill.

Liberty Hill Masonic Lodge (Longmire's Post Office) - This building was located at the corner of Scott's Ferry Road (S-138) and Charleston Road (S-21). The *Upper Savannah Historical Program* (1972)

states that during the Revolutionary War, the first "Liberty Pole" was raised here, naming the town. Although a modern Masonic lodge (Figure 19) now occupies the property, Edmonds (1999: 203) has a pre-1963 photograph of the original building (Figure 20), which is shown on the 1825 Mills' *Atlas* (see Figure 6). While there may be some archaeological significance, the extant structure



Figure 19. Modern Masonic Lodge at the corner of S-138 and S-21.



Figure 20. Edmonds (1999) photo of original Longmire's store.

has no architectural merit.

Bethany Baptist Church – This church was established in 1808 with its first structure located between Cuffytown and Hardlabor creeks (Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council 1972). Another church was built in 1850 at the Shinburg Muster Ground, which is less than 1,000 feet northwest of the intersection of S-138 and S-21 (where the southernmost proposed transmission corridor is located). The church is no longer standing in this location and a more modern church, which lacks architectural merit, is now located on SC 378.

Shinburg Mill – The remains of this grist mill are located on Cuffytown Creek on S-138, between the southern two proposed transmission routes (Figure 21). W.B. Dorn

owned the mill in the nineteenth century (Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council 1972). Edmonds (1999: 379) says that a “covered bridge . . . spanned Cuffeytown Creek, [but] was moved down stream during the flood of 1888.” This site is potentially eligible for the National Register, however, the transmission corridor will not pass through the area.

Governor J.C. Sheppard's Home

– This structure once stood on S-21, near the intersection with S-138, but was torn down in the 1960s (Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development

Council 1972). Sheppard was a South Carolina Governor in 1886. The exact location of this house is unknown, but would be closest to the southern proposed corridor.

Liberty Hill Female Academy – This structure was built in 1860 and used until just after the Civil War



Figure 21. View of mill remains.



Figure 22. View of alleged muster grounds.

(Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council 1972). The school reopened in 1876 until it burned down in 1916 (Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council 1972). A school (see Figure 15) was built to replace the building next to Bethany Baptist Church (Edmonds 1999: 379). The original location of the school was on S-21, 1.0 mile south of SC 378. This would be approximately 1,000 feet south of the southernmost proposed transmission line.

Liberty Hill Academy – This was the school for males, which was located on the grounds of present day Bethany Baptist Church (Upper Savannah Regional Planning and Development Council 1972). Some former students include Governor J.C. Sheppard and Senator Benjamin Tillman (Edmonds 1999: 379). Built around 1850, the school, which was located on SC 378, 0.75 mile west of the intersection with S-138, was destroyed before 1900. This location would have been between the two southern transmission routes near the modern Bethany Baptist Church.

While performing the field reconnaissance and history, the Shinburg Muster Ground was

found mentioned several times, however, the location was vague. In Chapman's (1980: 313) history of the county, he says that "in 1850 there was a new house of worship built at Shinburg Muster Ground, near Longmire's Postoffice." At this stage of research, we have been unable to provide any other resource that gives a location to the muster ground. While in Liberty Hill, however, a discussion with Mr. Patrick Ray revealed that he believes the ground is on S-138, less than 1,000

feet from the intersection with S-21 (Patrick Ray, personal communication 2007). Mr. Ray claims that another local, a Mr. Hollingsworth has found musket balls and other artifacts on the property (Figure 22). It is unknown to what extent collecting has taken place on the property, but the proposed transmission line appears to come very close, if not through the muster ground. Depending on the damage, an archaeological survey may be able to identify the grounds. Additional, more intensive research, may also be undertaken during a survey in an attempt to identify any other maps or resources that may identify the muster ground. It may, however, be difficult to identify significant research potential for the site.

CONCLUSIONS

This study involved a brief historic study and architectural examination of Liberty Hill in McCormick County, South Carolina. This work, conducted for Mr. Tommy L. Jackson of Central Electric Power Cooperative examined resources that may be affected by a proposed transmission corridor.

As a result of this investigation four standing architectural resources (0021-0024) were recorded. Only one resource, the Bethany Church School (0022) is recommended eligible for the

study may become necessary if the chosen corridor crosses the property.

In general, the probability of finding sites, prehistoric and historic, is very high. Work performed in the nearby Sumter National Forest has yielded hundreds of sites. Some sites have already been identified on or in very close proximity to the proposed corridors. The topography along the proposed corridors is the same as in the Sumter National Forest (numerous ridge tops and ridge toes next to water sources)

Table 1.
Resources identified in Liberty Hill

Resource	Possible Archaeological Sites	Eligibility Recommendation	Distance/Visibility		
			Northern Corridor	Center Corridor	Southern Corridor
0021		Not Eligible	1.5 miles/not visible	0.4 mile/not visible	0.7 mile/not visible
0022		Eligible	1.7 miles/not visible	0.6 mile/not visible	0.5 mile/not visible
0023		Not Eligible	2.7 miles/not visible	0.8 mile/not visible	0.2 mile/potentially visible
0024		Not Eligible	2.7 miles/not visible	0.7 mile/not visible	0.1 mile/potentially visible
	Liberty Hill Masonic Lodge	Not Evaluated	N/A	N/A	0.1 mile
	Bethany Baptist Church	Not Evaluated	N/A	N/A	Possibly on corridor
	(Shinburg Muster Grounds)				
	Shinburg Mill	Not Evaluated	N/A	N/A	0.2 mile
	Governor J.C. Sheppard's Home	Not Evaluated	N/A	N/A	Approx. 0.2 mile
	Liberty Hill Female Academy	Not Evaluated	N/A	N/A	vicinity
	Liberty Hill Academy	Not Evaluated	N/A	Between Center and Southern Corridor	

National Register of Historic Places. Only two of the four structures (0023 and 0024) may be possibly visibly from the southernmost corridor, however, both resources are recommended not eligible for the National Register.

While other resources are located in the Liberty Hill area, they are no longer standing and would be identified through an archaeological survey. The Shinburg Muster Ground, according to an interview with Mr. Patrick Ray, is located in the path of one of the proposed corridors. Although we have been unable to locate any maps showing the muster ground, a more in depth

and there is an abundance of well drained soils – both indications of high site probability areas.

Although two of the four standing architectural structures (0021-0022) cannot be seen from the proposed transmission corridors, the southern-most corridor is closest to the resources 0023 and 0024, which are located about 750 feet from the line. The line may be potentially visible by these resources. This southern corridor also may cross the Shinburg Muster Ground, however, without any maps showing the muster ground, archaeology would be needed to verify this.

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Chicora Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 8664 • 861 Arbutus Drive
Columbia, SC 29202-8664
Tel: 803-787-6910
Fax: 803-787-6910
Email: Chicora@earthlink.net
www.chicora.org